



KNOX GRAMMAR SCHOOL

John W Weeks **Headmaster**

10 March 2009

Mr Rob Wannan
Chairman

Dear Rob,

Over the past week I have been trying to work through the issues which beset us at this time and also to consider our approach for the future.

I believe that the School's greatest weakness as seen by past, current and potential students and parents is "child protection". I state this because of the plethora of information coming to the School directly, via Police, the changing behaviours of current parents and the now evident trends in future enrolments directly related to "child protection"

To illustrate my statements I will show you some samples of emails detailing what was "known" about the activities of a few in the past.

Currently, the Prep School parents are expressing lack of trust in us. The parents of all Prep Gallery Choir boys have pulled them out of the April Tour to Melbourne causing the cancellation of the tour. I am watching with interest the upcoming support for the Prep Rugby at Armidale this Easter.

The number of Prep withdrawals for 2010 and beyond at Kindergarten level is now 10, some slippage in other Prep years but nil slippage at the Senior School.

While I am personally dealing with all of this as best I can the signals are clear from the past, present and future. This leads me to conclude it is our greatest challenge and we need to confront this in a thoughtful and reasoning manner that goes well beyond bandaids and glossy brochures.

This issue needs to be addressed quickly and as I shared with you we need people of a high calibre from outside to work with us.

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I am proposing that we engage Mr Grahame Wilson, now the AIS Director for Child Protection/OHS Risk Management to join the Knox staff. The role envisaged is detailed in a draft document headed "Draft Position Description".

Mr Wilson is 61 years old and is possibly the best in the business. As you will read I propose that his work is not restricted to Child Protection but also picks up the other areas we are frequently concerned with in OHS and Risk Management.

I would propose a three year contract – he won't be cheap but then again, there is much at stake!

Please let me know your thoughts.

Yours sincerely

John W. Weeks
Headmaster